THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, such information is not maintained at Central level.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, to the effect that their police personnel should conduct themselves in a humane manner and that cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly.

Crime Against Women in Delhi

2787. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of news-item titled "Crime against women cell can only assist those who come out and seek justice" appearing in Indian Express, dated 19-01-2000 reporting therein that Delhi is regarded as the most unsafe of all metros for women as admitted by police authorities;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a recent judgement of Matto's case, the guilty could not be punished for want of evidence;

(c) if so, the action taken to revive the Matto's case; and

(d) the steps taken to check crime against women especially in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The reported news-item carried an interview given by an officer of Delhi Police associated with Crime against Women Cell. The thrust of the inter view was to encourage the women to come forward and lodge their report with the police. The contention of the writer of the said news-item about Delhi being most unsafe place for women, is not based on facts and figures of the crime against women.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed an appeal in the Delhi High Court against the judgement dated 3-12-1999 passed by the Additional Sessions Judge, Delhi acquitting the accused after giving him benefit of doubt.

(d) The steps taken to prevent crime against women include streamlining the functioning of Crime against Women Cell; introduction of gender sensitization course; deployment of police personnel at the Girls/Women institutions to instil a sense of security; and preventive action against the persons known or suspected to be indulging in crime against women.

Communication Network for Police

2788. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that law and order is deteriorating and police forces are not able to show their performance due to poor communication network; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve communication network in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and, as such, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to train, equip and modernise their police forces in order to keep pace with the changing security and law & order scenario. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to improve their policing infrastructure, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme, viz., Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, since 1969-70. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for Communication also.

The Central Government is also implementing, with effect from the financial year 1997-98, a special scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces in the North-East under which arms and ammunition, vehicles and communication and other equipment are provided in kind.

In addition to the above, the Central Government has undertaken a project, called POLNET, to improve police communication network. POLNET is a satellite-based project. It envisages installation of 833 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and 11,502 Multi Access Radio Telephones (MARTs) in order to integrate police communication in the country. It will